

Question 4: Graduate School Entrance Exams and Licensure Pass Rates

Graduate Exam or Licensure	Pass Rate Previous Year	Pass Rate Most Recent Year	National Pass Rate
NCLEX Pass Rates—Baccalaureate (2004-05)	94%	91%	85%
NCLEX Pass Rates—Associate (2004-05)	90%	90%	85%
NCLEX Pass Rates— Practical Nursing (2004-05)	89%	95%	90%
Physical Therapist Licensing Examination (2004-05)	83%	67%	72%
National Council for Examiners for Engineering Exam, Part 1 (2004-05)	86%	75%	76%
Kentucky Bar Exam (2004-05)	69%	72%	N/A
National Dental Board Exam, Part 2 (2004-05)	92%	98%	94%
North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (2003-04)	100%	100%	N/A
US Medical Licensure Exam, Part 2 (2003-04)	95%	94%	92%
American Registry of Radiologic Technicians (2003-04)	85%	91%	89%
National Board for Respiratory Care Exam (2003-04)	81%	91%	74%

Source: CPE Comprehensive Database, State and National Certification Boards

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Status: New Indicator

Students' performance on licensure and graduate school admissions exams is a strong indication of their readiness for life and work. Licensure exams directly measure students' employability in their chosen fields. In most cases, these measures also provide a useful comparison to other states. Kentucky licensure pass rates exceed national pass rates in most areas, ranging from 67 to 100 percent. Kentucky has a strong track record in educating future health care providers, in particular. Graduate school entrance exam data (such as the GMAT, LSAT, GRE, and MCAT) are not currently available at the statewide level, but the Council is working to obtain this information. Large fluctuations in licensure pass rates from one year to the next may be due to a small number of test-takers.